

Out Dancing Ballroom

Welcome Dance Friends,

This first year of *Out Dancing Ballroom* has zoomed by. We now have 15 men and women in the group and have completed 5 dance routines (West Coast, Waltz, Cha Cha, Tango, and East Coast). We danced at Valley Pride and other events. It's been a good year.

The costume committee is making costumes and we are scheduling events for the coming year to perform.

NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN OUR GROUP AND BE PART OF OUR EXCITING PERFORMING SCHEDULE.

Chuck Stewart, Director.
ckstewar@aol.com
310-838-6247

Welcome potential new member,

Thank you for showing interest in participating with the **Out Dancing Ballroom**.

Below is listed information about the group and the initial press release.

Our goal is to introduce the lesbian and gay community to the delights of ballroom dancing. As a group, we choreograph numbers in west coast swing, waltz, tango, east coast swing, freestyle, cha cha, and other ballroom dances, then perform these at the many lesbian and gay festivals and shows in Southern California.

Rehearsals:

Monday Nights--- (where new members learn established dances)

9:00 PM - 10:30 PM

- Hollywood Dance Center, 817 N. Highland Ave. (upstairs, front studio). 323-467-0825. Located between Melrose and Santa Monica Blvd. on the westside. There is street parking.

Friday Nights--- (where we develop new routines for everyone)

2nd and 4th Friday— 7:15 PM until 8:30 PM

All other Fridays (1st, 3rd, 5th) — 7:15 PM to as late as 9:30 PM

- United Methodist Church (upstairs auditorium), 7866 Fountain Ave.

(Corner of Fairfax & Fountain Avenues in West Hollywood). Parking is available on both Fairfax or Fountain, south of Fountain, and in the parking lot behind the church. Check signs on other streets.

This time still leaves plenty of time to go out on Friday.

ALL MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND FRIDAY NIGHT REHEARSALS.

Sunday or Saturday Afternoons--- (where new members learn established dances)

Not set yet, but should be 3 PM -5 PM every other Sunday or Saturday. Call to confirm. (Also location may change, but will still be in Long Beach.)

• PSALMS 30:11, 530 E. 4th Street (at Atlantic) Long Beach (upstairs)
(Corner of 4th and Atlantic). Parking available directly across from the dance studio in small parking lot that has signs approving parking for .

Cost

(to cover cost of hall rental)

Whether you attend Wednesday, Friday, Sunday, or all three, the cost per member is \$25 per month. All payments go to our treasurer, Ben-Andy Hein and are due on the first meeting of the month.

Thank you for your interest. Hope to see you there.

ORIGINAL PRESS RELEASE---

BALLROOM DANCING QUEERS [now *Out Dancing Ballroom*]

Gay and Lesbian Ballroom Dance Performance Troupe Forms

A dedicated group of ballroom dancers are forming a troupe to perform at lesbian and gay functions in Southern California. More and more clubs are playing music where traditional ballroom steps can be used. Whether it be waltz, rumba, swing, cha cha, tango, fox trot, salsa, west coast swing, and others, dancing in couples brings an experience that is missing in club or disco dancing. *Ballroom Dancing Queers* wants to raise the LGBT community awareness to the delights of ballroom dancing. If you are a dancer interested in participating in the troupe, contact Chuck Stewart at 310-838-6247 or via email at ckstewar@aol.com.

Sincerely,
Chuck Stewart

More Details---

General Description:

This dance troupe uses choreographed ballroom numbers with full costumes. All dancers need to have a background in ballroom, but do not need to be experts.

The goal of the group is to introduce the queer community to the delights of ballroom dancing. As such, we are a performance troupe and performing skills are of utmost importance.

This is a cooperative effort. We need dancers, choreographers, costume designers, and people with organizational skills in media, bookkeeping, and more.

Quantity of dancers needed:

No number will have more than 6 couples on stage. Since we need alternates, the troupe should include about 16 people.

Choreography:

We need a minimum of three numbers to produce a show that is 9 minutes in length. Ultimately, we hope to create about 8 or 9 numbers so that we can produce longer shows and alternate between numbers.

Costs:

1. Rehearsal Space— cost \$25 per month per member. This will be collected from each member at the first of the month for the entire month.
2. Costumes— Each number will be costumed. Members will be responsible for the cost of their own costume. We intend to utilize the skills of costume designers to keep the cost down. Although you pay for the costume, if you leave the group the costume stays with us.
3. Travel— In most cases we will encourage car pooling to events. Most will be scheduled for southern California. However, there has been initial discussion to participate in the Gay Games in Australia.

Commitment:

Dancers must be willing to commit to weekly rehearsals, performances, and the expenses associated with being a member.

Performance Schedule and Reality:

1. There are about 18 LGBT events in southern California to which we can perform throughout the year. In our first year, we will probably only participate in about 6 shows. As we become better known, this number will increase.
2. The reality of performing can be disappointing. How many times have you seen already established groups perform to just a handful of people? This will be true for us, if not more so. Because we are just starting off, we will be given the worst times to perform at the gay festivals. Therefore, I encourage each of you who want to participate, do so because you love to dance and perform, regardless of how many people are in the audience.
3. We are going to rehearse in a space not larger than 25'X35'. This is because most performing venues will restrict us to this size. This is small and can be frustrating. It would be disastrous for us to become used to a much larger space when we have to adjust to postage-stamp size stages.

Frustrations:

1. Because this is a performance troupe, many ballroom steps will be modified to flatten them and change the action toward the audience. As such, some dancers may become frustrated with changes made to steps they already know.
2. Do not come thinking you will learn new steps that you can use at a regular dance. As many of you know, the flash and dash shown by exhibition dancers is impossible to do with uninitiated dancers. Likewise, do not expect rehearsals to be a replacement for dance classes. We encourage you to continue with dance instruction elsewhere.
3. Also, because you are a performer, people will have unrealistic expectations when you dance with them. You may become frustrated by not meeting these expectations.
4. Rehearsals are just that, rehearsals. We will have fun, but much of it is work. There will be a turn over in members. As such, once numbers are set, much of our time will be spent teaching new members the choreography as they join to replace members who have left. This can be tedious.

If you are still interested, contact Chuck Stewart. It will be fun and we will promote ballroom dancing to the gay and lesbian community. Indirectly, we will help Gloria Paternostro (909-861-1122) of *Shall We Dance* (<http://members.aol.com/danceshlwe/>), John Batchelor (323-661-4336) of the *2nd Friday Dance* (Dance2live@cs.com), and other teachers of ballroom dancing in the gay and lesbian community.

Please forward this notice to others you feel may be interested.